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## Licking County gears up for census count

*BY AMY HOLLON*  
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NEWARK -- Although the census remains almost a year away, Licking County officials are taking initial steps to ensure a successful count.

While the U.S. Census Bureau is the agency in charge of distributing the questionnaire, county officials have been asked to recruit community leaders to join a Complete Count Committee to help get the word out.

"Basically the whole point of the Complete Count Committee is just to get the awareness out there about how important it is to fill out the form," said Racie Young, the county's economic development specialist.

Young said the numbers play an important role because the data routinely is used to distribute federal funds to state and local governments.

The census has been completed every decade since the 1790s, but it might look a little different this year. Young said it is expected to be a 10-question-only survey.

As soon as members are recruited for the committee, it will be broken into several subcommittees that will focus on government, education, faith-based organizations, media, community-based organizations, business and recruiting.

Census Bureau Media Specialist Carol Hector-Harris said the bureau already has employed several local individuals to verify addresses throughout the county in order to guarantee every resident receives a survey.

This will continue in spring 2010, when census employees will go door-to-door nationwide to update address lists.

## Additional Facts

### CENSUS 2010: HOW IT WORKS

- **WHAT IS THE CENSUS?:** The U.S. Census is a Constitutionally mandated population count of everyone living in the United States. The count, which started in 1790 and is done every 10 years, is used to determine congressional representation and the allocation of billions in federal funds.

- **WHEN DOES IT START?:** Census officials already are working to identify and catalog addresses. In March 2010, questionnaires will be mailed to every household. The forms include questions on race, age and gender. Census employees will visit households that don't respond.
- **WHAT'S THE DEADLINE?:** The data must be submitted to President Barack Obama by Dec. 31, 2010. During the next year, the agency periodically will release various sets of population data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau